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SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
New York, 25 August-3 September 1992
Item 6 (c) of the provisional agenda*

TOPONYMIC DATA FILES: AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING (ADP) SYSTEMS

A data file on toponyms of Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe at the Austrian Institute of East and South-East European Studies

Paper submitted by Austria**

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* E/CONF.85/1/Rev.1.

** Prepared by P. Jordan and E. Tomasi, Austrian Institute of East and South-East European Studies.

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The Austrian Institute of East and South-East European Studies in collaboration with the Austrian National Library is preparing a data file on toponyms of Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe.

1. Format and contents of the data file

The data file is compiled with the programme Reflex Plus, elaborated by Mr. Ortner and Mr. Wawrick, Austrian National Library, displayable on Apple-Macintosh personal computers. The file can be transferred by 3.5 inch floppy discs.

Intended contents:

- Names of settlements
- Names of physio-geographical features: mountains, peaks, landscapes, mountain passes, islands, capes, water bodies
- Names of administrative units

Intended spatial coverage: Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Austria, Yugoslavia, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, western republics of the Soviet Union (Moldavia, Ukraine, Belorussia, Lithuania, Lettland, Esthonia)

Starting point is the index of the Atlas of the Danubian Countries, edited by Josef Breu and Elisabeth Tomasi*. From this index the following attributes of a geographical feature are derived:

- Current official names of a settlement or an administrative unit; current name of a physio-geographical feature (mountain, river etc.) according to the official language; (transliterated form in cases of official non-Latin script, transliteration according to the recommendations of the United Nations)
- Non-Latin-script form (for names from languages using Cyrillic script)
- Language classification of the current official name
- Current official allonyms, in cases of more than one official language, including language classification and original spellings in non-Latin script
  Identification of features ("settlement", "river" etc.)
- Other allonyms of the feature: Names rendered obsolete since the beginning of the 20th century on account of renaming, change of the official language, change of national sovereignty; exonyms of the languages English, German, French, Russian as well as current exonyms of other languages used in the area represented.

In addition to these contents derived from the index the data file will contain information on

(with settlements)

- Number of inhabitants around the years 1910 and 1990
- Administrative status today and before World War I
- Administrative affiliation today and before World War I
- Altitude above sea-level
- Geographical coordinates
- Fact of river, lake- or seaside situation

(with landscapes)
- Country location
- Geographical coordinates

(with mountains)
- Altitude above sea-level of the highest peak
- Country location
- Geographical coordinates of the highest peak

(with mountain peaks)
- Altitude of the peak
- Geographical coordinates
- Country location

(with mountain passes)
- Altitude of the pass
- Geographical coordinates
- Country location

(with islands)
- Geographical coordinates
- Country location
- Area

(with capes)
- Geographical coordinates
- Country location

(with water bodies)
- Identification ("river", "lake", "bay" etc.)
- Country location
- Geographical coordinates of the mouth of a river or the lake
- Lenght of a river
- Rank of a river
- Area of a lake
- Affiliation of a bay to a sea

Sources of the thematical, especially the historical information

2. Modes of use
- Search for attributes of a definite geographical feature (e.g. official name and administrative affiliation of a settlement in 1910, of which the present name is known)
- Search for all geographical features with common attributes (e.g. settlements within a given administrative unit; names of a given language; identical names)

3. Mode of set-up

1st step: Storing of all features represented on a map in a 2 million scale covering Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, southern parts of Poland, southwestern parts of the Soviet Union (Moldavia, partly the Ukraine), Eastern and Central Austria (about 10 000 features)

2nd step: Extension of the spatial coverage to Poland and Austria in total and larger parts of the Soviet Union (the Ukraine, Belorussia and the Baltic republics in total)

3rd step: Densification within the covered area extending the contents to smaller settlements and smaller or less important physio-geographical features

It is projected to conclude the 1st step within 2 years.

4. Accessability of the data file

The data file will be at everybody´s disposal at the Austrian Institute of East and South-East European Studies, Vienna, Josefsplatz 6, as well as at the Austrian National Library, Vienna, Josefsplatz 1. Contributing and cooperating institutions might receive the file free of charge. Special evaluations of a more comprehensive character for other institutions and individuals would have to be remunerated. The data file will be available in digital or analogous form.

* Josef BREU, Elisabeth TOMASi: Atlas of the Danubian Countries - Index. Comparative Multilingual Gazetteer of the Geographical Names. Wien 1989.

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agenda*

TOPONYMIC DATA FILES: AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING (ADP) SYSTEMS; NATIONAL GAZETTEERS

Report on toponymic data files for Austria

Paper submitted by Austria**

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* E/CONF.85/1/Rev.1.

** Prepared by Helmut Desoye, Austrian Central Statistical Office and Board on Geographical Names.

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1. Two toponymic data files for Austria are already available:

The Ortsverzeichnis (gazetteer of inhabited places: The Gazetteer of Austria).

The Gebäuderegister (register of buildings); it includes a sub-register of all named streets in Austria.

2. Both the above data files are kept by the Austrian Central Statistical Office.

3. A further data file is now under development by the Federal Office of Metrology and Geodesy (Bundesamt für Eich- und Vermessungswesen), entitled GEONAM (Collection of geographical names for digital storage and running).

4. Details are described below.

Ortsverzeichnis (Gazetteer of Austria)

5. The names of inhabited places and their statistical data are collected at the time of the Census, which takes place in every first year of a decade. Partly inhabited places are revised also between censuses and their names are partly derived from the official Austrian Map 1:50,000.

6. The Ortsverzeichnis is published after each Census in eight volumes for each "province" (only one volume for Vienna and Lower Austria) and one register-book for all names. The last Ortsverzeichnis was published after the Census of 1981; the next one will be published after the Census of 1991 (i.e. in 1993 and 1994).

7. The Ortsverzeichnis exists in the form of a data file from which not only the published version, but also printed versions for the whole of Austria or parts of it or similar versions on electronic data-carriers (discs, tapes) may be obtained.

Gebäuderegister (register of buildings)

8. The Austrian Central Statistical Office runs this register of the 1.8 million buildings including a sub-register for the 73,000 named streets in the cities, towns and other inhabited places. These names are updated and correspond to those in the house-address register of the Federal Office of Metrology and Geodesy.

GEONAM: toponymic data file

9. The Federal Office of Metrology and Geodesy, among other duties, carries out the topographical survey and production of official maps. The basic map, at 1:50,000 scale, is maintained at intervals of seven years. In the course of maintenance of these maps, under the working-title GEONAM, the geographical names are collected for digital storage and running of these data. The

following parameters were integrated within the data file during the first (and current) phase:

All geographical names

Number of map sheet

Code of administrative district

Type and size of script

Height above sea-level.

10. In a second phase, the following additional parameters are designated for collection:

Coordinates of situation

Information about appearance in other maps developed by the Federal Office of Metrology and Geodesy

Reference to alterations

Remarks.

11. The goals of GEONAM are the following:

(a) Variable possibilities for information according to different order and scale-criteria;

(b) Easier treatment of names for topographers and cartographers (automatic positioning of script, easier maintenance, consistent spelling in all official maps);

(c) To be a building block for a topographical information-system.

12. At present 60,000 names have been collected during the first phase of development: these are half the number to be collected. This phase will end in 1995; the beginning of the second phase cannot yet be specified.

13. A further toponymic data file referring mostly to names outside Austria is the "Toponymic data file on Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe of the Austrian Institute of Eastern and South-East European Studies". A separate paper is presented on this subject (E/CONF.85/L.15).

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